

Draft Minutes
City of Kentwood
Arts Commission
February 24, 2020

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

B. Roll Call:

Members Present: Wendy BooydeGraaff, Jerry DeMaagd, Terry Schweitzer, Clarkston Morgan and Betsy Artz

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mayor Kepley, City Commissioner Coughlin and Kristina Colby, Parks & Recreation Program Coordinator

C. Minutes

Motion by Morgan, supported by BooydeGraaff, to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2020 Arts Commission meeting.

Motion Carried (5-0)

D. Draft Arts Commission Purpose Statement

At the last commission meeting on February 6, there was discussion concerning the desire to formulate a wider long-range vision for the Arts Commission based on the value of art in the community that transcends the current focus on the piece of art donated to the city. BooydeGraaff introduce a draft purpose statement she had volunteered to put together drawing, in part, upon the tenants associated with the former Kentwood Arts Advisory Committee. It was suggested to add bullet points relating to encouragement to the business community to support public art as well as recognition of the commission's role in the review of public art venues.

E. Tri-Elements Retrofit and Installation

- Sculpture Symbolism-DeMaagd led the discussion on the "Shining City on a Hill" ideal associated with early New England settlements. Purportedly inspired by the scriptures, the early settlers took literally a verse from Mathew 5:14 which says, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden". He pointed out that the Arts Commission has

been tasked with evaluating the sculpture donated by Woodland Mall last year and recommending a prominent place for its installation within the city limits.

He suggested that a retrofit of the sculpture to LED lighting and a placement on the grounds of the Library and City Hall could become a symbol of the ideal “shining city on the hill”, not only making all feel welcome to our city, but to truly feel a sense of belonging within our community. Discussion ensued concerning the desirability to also add to the art within the Library and City Hall.

- Collaboration with Kentwood, Kelloggsville, Forest Hills and Caledonia School Districts-Morgan described the concept of partnering with all the school districts located within the city limits to promote public art. He suggested that the Arts Commission take ownership of a collaborative initiative between the schools and the city every other year. He envisioned the display of the student art in area businesses. This activity would be used to raise money for the Arts Commission as well as Kids Food Basket and Hand to Hand.

- Schweitzer indicated he had been in contact with Pamela Pakker regarding commissioning Ulrich Pakker to come to Kentwood to retrofit his Tri-Elements sculpture received in donation by the city from Woodland Mall. Pamela had sent a general quote via email in July of 2019. He discussed the Kentwood Arts Commission desire to obtain a firm quote as well as inquire about Ulrich’s willingness to allow the commission to chronical his retrofit work (in pictures and narrative) to highlight the sculpture and develop an event around its unveiling.

Pamela indicated that Ulrich has previously worked with other clients to do such things as have art students follow his work as well as dialogue about his process, his works and techniques. Pamela indicated that they could put together the pictures and narrative of the retrofit process. She explained that half of the retrofit work would take place in his studio in terms of obtaining the type of glass he uses as well as cutting the pieces to size. She reiterated the need for a

workspace near the eventual sculpture placement to put the glass pieces into place, glue them together with a special adhesive, grind off the excess and apply a slight frosting to the glass. Schweitzer indicated that the Director of Public Works had assured that the workspace would be made available.

Schweitzer also inquired about an updated schedule of his availability in the coming months. Pamela indicated Ulrich was previously committed for the May-July time period. He is currently working out the details for another project, but it sounded like they have not yet firmed up the schedule. She generally talked about late July through September as a possibility for the work in Kentwood. When she learned that Kentwood was a suburb of Grand Rapids, she expressed interest to take in the ArtPrize.

Pakker indicated they would put together a quote.

- Funding Options-Artz, Booydegraff and Colby reviewed the research they had gathered regarding possible funding options for arts projects. There was extensive discussion about the eligibility requirements, funding cycles and the particular areas of focus with each of the various funding resources. In most cases a pre-existing financial commitment was a prerequisite to the applications. The prospect of funding from the Kentwood Foundation was noted as well as the limitations on the ability of the city draw upon general fund monies given the need to maintain essential services.

After extensive discussion the commission concluded it would be prudent to delay the sculpture project until 2021 to further evaluate the precise location for the placement of the sculpture. In addition, given the time and expertise required to write a successful grant application, it would be important for the city to secure the services of a grant writer either on staff or on a consulting basis. Even then the prioritization of grant requests amongst the city departments would have to be determined

F. Next meeting.

The consensus of the group was to schedule the next meeting of the Arts Commission for April 27, 2020 at 6:30pm in the large first floor conference room in City Hall.

Motion by DeMaagd, supported by Morgan, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Submitted by Arts Commission Secretary Terry Schweitzer